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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1995

## Citizens' Band, Town now in 'harmony'

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

The Acton Tanner

It looks like the Acton Citizens' Band and the Town will make beautiful music together.

The dispute over property taxes owed by the Band has been settled with a deal that will see the 123-year-old Band affiliate with the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks

department.

The affiliation means that the Band, which was recently registered as a charitable organization, can ask the Town to waive property taxes — which total \$4,600 this year — on the Band's one-acre property and Band Hall on Wallace Street.

Earlier in the year, and for the first time in its history, the Band was assessed property taxes when it was discovered that the Town did not own the Band Hall and land.

The Band then asked the Town to cover the cost during a recent grant request meeting. The request was referred to budget talks.

Initially, Bandmaster George Elliott was leery that affiliating with the Town would mean a loss of autonomy for the Band, but he

is now satisfied that will not happen.

"Tom Shepard (the Town's Director of Parks and Rec) said that the Band could continue to operate as it has in the past.

"He told me that he has enough to do to look after his department without trying to tell the Band what to do.

"The Town will have a 'hands-off' policy with the Band," Elliott explained in an interview on Saturday.

"I'm quite pleased that we have found some way to maintain the status quo with the Band and cover the taxes that we can't afford to pay."

As part of the new deal, the Band has paid about \$300 in taxes so far this year.

Elliott said affiliating with the

Town won't mean many changes for the Band, but it will offer a "financial safety net." The Band's budget will be included in the Recreation and Parks department spending plan.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott, George's cousin, said on Saturday that the new approach will eliminate the Band having to come to the Town each year with cap-in-hand, asking for a grant.

"I personally find it frustrating to have to justify the Band's grant money every year and to convince new councillors, and some of the old ones, that the grant should be approved," Councillor Elliott said.

The Band's affiliation with the Town, and its financial implications, will be discussed today (Wednesday) at a Town budget meeting.



### BRONZE BOWLER!

Brock Spear, a Bantam bowler in the YBC league at Acton Bowl, shows off the bronze medal he won at a recent Four Steps to Stardom tourney at Hopedale Bowl in Oakville. It was the 10-year-old's first singles competition. See story on Page 11. (Doug Harrison photo)

## Damage leads to make-over

Concrete 'chunks' drop at Mill Street store

No one was injured when two five-pound chunks of concrete crashed to the sidewalk in front of 37 and 39 Mill Street last Wednesday morning.

The pieces of broken window sill broke off the roof, bounced off a metal awning onto a truck parked on the street, and landed on the curb in front of Red Rose Crafts.

At first, craft store owner Nancy Labelle thought someone had fallen on the stairs to the apartments over the store.

"I was on the phone when I heard a crash," Labelle said in an interview on Saturday.

"When I went outside I saw the blocks lying on the sidewalk and then I saw the dents and scratches on the truck. Luckily, no one was walking in the area when the concrete broke lose."

Building owner Paul Nielsen soon had barricades put up in front of the building and the structure

was inspected for further damage.

"Some water got in behind the window sill in one of the apartments and the sill broke away," Nielsen said on Friday.

"The chunks of brick that came down were big enough to do damage to someone's head, but thank God, no one was on the sidewalk when they fell."

Nielsen said it will cost him "a mint" to repair the building because he has told his contractor to inspect the entire facade and do whatever repairs are necessary.

"It might not be a total facelift, but everything that needs to be fixed will be," Nielsen said.

The building was constructed in 1939. Clothing stores have operated in it until 1990, when Nielsen closed his store and began renting the building.

Labelle said business at the craft store has been slow since the accident because people see the scaffolding and think that it is closed.

"We are open and it is safe," Labelle stressed.

The facade repairs are not the only changes happening at the building this week.

Nielsen is clearing out the 800 square foot warehouse at the back of the building; Labelle plans to renovate and extend her store.

## Watch for Easter Seals

Colourful Easter Seals envelopes have been arriving at Acton area homes over the past week.

The campaign is being managed by the Acton Rotary Club, and member Fred Gordon urges residents to send in a contribution.

"Local youngsters benefit most from donations," Gordon explains.



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